



Notes for Water Watchers

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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How do you measure up?

Every day we do, or avoid doing, things which affect the amount and quality of the water we use. Here's an opportunity for you to consider what your contribution is to the problem and to the solution. Take a few minutes to complete this checklist. Add up the numbers you wrote as the answers to the following questions to find your total. Then use the information provided on the reverse to see how you measure up.

Section One **Score your responses as: Never - 1, Sometimes - 2, Often - 3.**

Do you or your parents.....

1. ___ leave the tap water running as you brush your teeth?
2. ___ turn the lawn sprinkler on during mid-day?
3. ___ throw used containers of paint, solvents, or harsh cleaners into the trash?
4. ___ empty leftover paint, solvents, or cleansers into the kitchen sink?
5. ___ run the washing machine or dishwasher with small loads?
6. ___ water your lawn frequently during the summer to achieve a lush cover?
7. ___ use lots of fertilizers and lawn feeder to help the lawn recover from winter?
8. ___ clean the driveway, sidewalk, or curb side by hosing it down with water?
9. ___ leave the shower running to heat up the bathroom?
10. ___ wait to repair a dripping faucet until it turns into a steady leak?
11. ___ use the toilet to dispose of ordinary waste around the house?
12. ___ wash the car every weekend in the summer?
13. ___ change your oil in the street or use storm drains to dispose of used oil?
14. ___ sweep lawn and garden trimmings into the curb or down storm drains?
15. ___ use the garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps?

___ **Total Score of Section One**

Section Two **Score your responses as: Yes - 1, No - 3**

Do you or your parents.....

16. ____ volunteer to help clean up a water body or promote water quality awareness in your community?
17. ____ know where your tap water comes from?
18. ____ know where your wastewater goes?
19. ____ know who operates your water utilities?
20. ____ know how much it costs for your water supply and wastewater treatment?

____ **Total Score of Section Two**

Add the total scores from the two sections: ____ + ____ = ____

How did you score?

25 or less

You are to be complimented on your knowledge of water resource issues, and your commitment to practicing sound conservation and pollution prevention measures.

26 to 44

You are generally aware of the need to conserve water, and to protect our surface water and groundwater from pollution, but need to be more consistent in your habits.

Remember, even small leaks result in huge losses, and small quantities of pollutants can contaminate large water bodies.

45 to 60

Unfortunately, like too many others, you could be contributing to severe water supply and pollution control problems in your community. You need to think about the many ways you can modify your habits to become part of the solution.

What more can you do?

25 or less

Keep it up! Educate your friends and family to follow your example. Join or start a volunteer monitoring program in your community.

26 to 44

Conduct a home water user survey with your friends and family. Try it out in class, or at the work place! Implement protection and conservation measures whenever you find problems.

45 to 60

Call local organizations or government agencies for more information. Learn about and practice measures to save and protect water. Join a local group committed to natural resources protection.

Remember: Protecting Kansas Waters is Up to You!!

For additional information, contact KDHE, Bureau of Water - Nonpoint Source Section, Forbes Field, Bldg. 283, Topeka, KS 66620-0001; (785) 296-4195.

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